
COUNTY OF KERN
MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Diane G. Koditek, M.F.T., Director



Working together toward
Hope, Recovery and Independence

**PAROLEE SERVICES NETWORK
REGIONAL MEETING
Kern County Mental Health
3300 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield
January 9, 2008**

PRESENT:

Maurice Lee – WestCare
Barry Sturm – CDCR
Oscar Acosta, Jr. – WestCare
Rashid Frye – WestCare
Kurt Klemencic – ADP
John Bailey – CDCR
Cindy Coe – KCMH

Randal Force – Turning Point
Cynthia Nules – CDCR
Chris Willis – WestCare
Elvira Diaz – ADP
Bill Brooks – College Community Services
Lily Alvarez – KCMH

SUMMARY MINUTES:

1. **Introductions:** Accomplished.
2. **Approval of October 10, 2007 meeting minutes:** Minutes approved by consensus.
3. **Follow-up items:**
 - A. Page 1, Item 3 A: *Ms. Phoenix will follow up on the issue of who had made the POC decision not to let the psychiatrists or psychologists go out in the field with the parole agent to service clients.* Per an e-mail from Ms. Diaz, this issue will be on the agenda for the next PSN Administrators' Meeting to facilitate a broader discussion between the Central Region Alcohol & Drug Administrators, ADP and CDCR officials.
 - B. Page 1, Item 3 B: *Ms. Phoenix will clarify with ADP the issue of whether ADP would support a zero tolerance for alcohol, including any environment where alcohol is the primary business.* Per an e-mail from Ms. Diaz, ADP has historically supported zero tolerance in program efforts to address alcohol and drug usage and has adopted a zero tolerance position for primary prevention activities. Treatment program policy matters, on the other hand, are deferred to local authorities.



- C. Page 1, Item 7 A: *Audrey Presley, gatekeeper at Sillect Avenue, will facilitate a meeting with College Community Services staff and parole to discuss the low census in Lake Isabella and Ridgecrest.* Mr. Brooks indicated that a meeting did not take place, and agreed to contact Natalia Salinas to follow up. Mr. Brooks reported they have had one referral in Ridgecrest and one in Lake Isabella, of the five slots available at each site.
- D. Page 2, Item 7 B: *Turning Point reported that their final PSN client should be completing in January.* Mr. Force reported that their last PSN client is scheduled to complete the first week of February. Ms. Alvarez provided a brief background on the RFP that was completed and the client transition between Turning Point and WestCare that had taken place.
- E. Page 2, Item 8 A: *ADP would like to host a Central Valley regional PSN Administrator meeting.* Ms. Diaz reported that they are still working on finalizing a date for the meeting.
- F. Page 2, Item 8 C: *ADP has indicated they will be visiting local PSN providers, doing site visits.* Ms. Diaz reported that she would be coordinating with Ms. Alvarez to do the site visits, possibly starting next month.
- G. Ms. Alvarez provided an overview of the gatekeeper's split role in providing assessments for PSN and Prop 36, the assessment and screening process, the treatment levels of care, and locations of gatekeepers. For years, we have not been able to convince parole agents that it is in the best interest of clients to enter treatment, so there has always been an underutilization of slots in Lake Isabella and Ridgecrest.

4. State ADP Issues:

- A. Ms. Diaz encouraged everyone to attend the ADP conference in June. There will be an open forum on PSN for the 17 PSN counties. Stakeholders will be invited to share ideas, problems, and successes at the town hall type of forum. It is hoped that a panel of high-ranking CDCR and ADP will be organized to respond to provider questions.
- B. Mr. Klemencic asked for feedback on the Housing Forum that was recently held. Ms. Alvarez responded that Mental Health has staff members participating in the planning of the annual Housing Conference and sit on the Behavioral Health Board's Housing Services Committee. Mr. Brooks reported that a housing project was completed in Ridgecrest that provided 18 beds, funded partly through MHSA; and a survey had been completed that evaluated all areas of the County, identifying consumer needs for housing, stability, or economic opportunity, based on area from the consumer, community, and agency perspectives. MHSA

community forums will be held through the month of February, which will facilitate more definitive recommendations regarding the use of the MHSA Housing Plan funds. Ms. Diaz asked if a schedule of the forums could be sent; Mr. Brooks will try to locate and e-mail. Ms. Alvarez agreed to send Ms. Diaz the housing needs assessment that was completed and will ask that she be added to receive information on the Housing Conference. Ms. Diaz agreed that ADP could help to promote events that counties are holding. Ms. Alvarez added that, as part of changes taking place, Probation has created a felony-friendly employer list and Parole holds a bi-weekly new parolee orientation on services available.

- C. Ms. Alvarez questioned whether there will be cuts to PSN this fiscal year or in the 2008 budget; Mr. Klemencic responded that they will not know until at least January 10th, but the governor has ordered 10% cuts across the board.
- D. Mr. Klemencic questioned whether WestCare had resolved the issue of not being on the provider drop-down list for reports in the CDCR database; Ms. Nules agreed to follow up on the issue.
- E. Mr. Klemencic questioned whether notices of postings on ADP's PSN website should be sent to providers through himself or Ms. Coe; it was agreed that Ms. Coe would send notifications.

5. State CDCR Issues:

- A. Ms. Nules reported that Thomas Powers is their new director, Sherrie Gaugher is the new acting deputy director, and she and Mr. Sturm are the new program managers for this region. Ms. Nules and Mr. Sturm plan to conduct site visits in Bakersfield at the end of January, but do not know yet whether they will visit any PSN facilities.
- B. A new program, 1453, has started; it is a five-month mandatory after care program for clients coming from an in-prison program and have specific criteria of non-violent non-serious offenses. If clients complete the five-month program they can be discharged from parole.
- C. The ICDTP (In Custody Drug Treatment Program) program is going through expansion. The program is for general population parolees who have not had any prior experience in an in-prison program. The two designs of the program allow for parolees to go to a county jail for 30 days and then 30 days mandatory residential with a step-down to outpatient or 12 Step. Because not all counties agreed to provide beds, CDCR created a Program 2 design, where the full 90 days is in a community-based program. Region 1 received 30 beds for the Program 2 design.

- D. The Drug Treatment Furlough (DTF) program received endorsement authority, a drug treatment program for housing inmates in the community in drug treatment centers. The endorsement authority allows CDCR to endorse the inmate to go into the DTF program; for inmates who have met the non-serious or non-violent criteria. The inmates can enter a DTF facility 120 days before they are paroled.

6. Kern County Parole Issues:

- A. Mr. Bailey added that the ICDTP program has expanded in Kern County, and is now at 96 beds and at capacity. Thirty more beds are supposed to come on line by February, but this is questionable due to staffing patterns at the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department originally did not want to take the contract because of language agreeing to take people from other counties, but may have to agree. Parole has experienced 1453 program parolees not wanting to be in the program after they start and preferring parole. Mr. Lee reported that the possible reason for that response is because some inmates are not ready to discharge, the loss of resources to the parolee, plus complications in obtaining employment or income. Mr. Frye added that inmates sometimes see the program as additional punishment or incarceration.

Ms. Alvarez added that Human Services is providing training to felons on how to address incarceration issues in the employment process. Mr. Bailey responded that programs need to help transition to employment so inmates can contribute to a household; Ms. Alvarez responded that she is not an advocate for getting people into the work force right away. Mr. Bailey responded that it should be allied with drug treatment programs and vocational training, and emphasis with drug rehabilitation programs; a work program could be developed for employers using incentives. Ms. Alvarez agreed that a partnership and collaboration is needed between supervision, treatment, supervision, and jobs and housing. Members discussed the competing dollars for ancillary services, utilizing a medical model for treatment, and funding for literacy. Mr. Klemencic questioned whether there were Prop 36 monies available for literacy; Ms. Alvarez reported that for Kern County, the average is 2500 new Prop 36 cases a year, and 72% of the treatment population is Prop 36, which pays about \$1,000 per year for each new client for treatment – not the old cases, and in the last reductions the vocational position was cut.

- B. Ms. Nules reported if you have an ICDTP client that can benefit from PSN, that is allowable, as they sometimes need outpatient treatment; Mr. Bailey requested additional information on how agents could get the additional resources. Ms. Nules suggested that providers should be contacted; Mr. Lee agreed that the providers are making the referrals, but the problem is that the parolee does not have to attend at that point, and the 150 days could be in a 12-Step program. Mr.

Bailey asked that more information be provided, so he could instruct his agents about the additional resources available. Ms. Nules added that it is allowable to use PSN services once they complete their residential stay for ICDPT, and a lot of times, because the ICDPT stay is short, they could utilize outpatient and sober living. Ms. Alvarez asked for clarification that we cannot use ADP money to purchase sober living that is not in conjunction with treatment; Ms. Nules agreed it has to be connected to treatment. Ms. Alvarez also questioned whether this was a policy statement, in writing, or that the PSN provider network could receive; Ms. Nules will check.

Mr. Klemencic asked that, if this is a formal option to go from ICDPT to PSN outpatient, it would help those PSN clients who are transitioning out of residential to outpatient. Members agreed there is not enough residential, and referrals are forced into outpatient because of this.

- C. Ms. Diaz felt that the issues discussed above would be good topics for the Administrators' meeting. Mr. Klemencic indicated that they hope, for a future Central Valley Administrators' meeting, a WestCare facility could be used in order to utilize their video-conferencing equipment.

7. Provider Issues:

- A. College Community Services: Mr. Brooks reported they continue to need referrals. They have 5 slots each in Lake Isabella and Ridgecrest, with only 1 slot in each location filled. Mr. Bailey responded that at the last meeting it was discussed about who the liaison was for those sites, because Parole initially had information that they had to go through the gatekeeper at Sillect Avenue, which they do not. The information is being shared with the agents.
- B. WestCare: Mr. Frye reported that the residential bed situation has gotten better, and the Gate Team has filled beds as soon as they are available. Mr. Frye would like his residential staff trained on KernOMS and specialized treatment planning, and is working with Mental Health staff to coordinate the training.

Mr. Willis reported that they have five Level 2 slots and none are filled, an overabundance of Level 3 slots, and only one slot out of 10 Level 4 slots filled.

Ms. Alvarez suggested that WestCare may need to do a mid-year adjustment and a meeting should be planned. Mr. Lee suggested that Mr. Willis run internal reports to see where the slots are needed.

Mr. Bailey questioned how many referrals College needed. Mr. Brooks responded that College would need 4 or 5 slots each for Lake Isabella and Ridgecrest. Mr. Bailey reported that the Agent of Record for that area is new.

Mr. Klemencic reported that there is a link on the PSN website for provider listings, which include descriptions of services and locations.

- C. Turning Point: Mr. Force reported a client success story. Ms. Diaz suggested that he write a couple of paragraphs that could be submitted and posted on the PSN website.
- D. WestCare: Mr. Willis related that, for those clients who seek treatment but do not have money for services, he contacts their agent to give them information about the PSN funding. Mr. Bailey offered that if an agent is not responsive, providers may contact him.

8. Mental Health Issues: Deferred due to time constraints.

9. Next meeting **April 9, 2008**, at Kern County Mental Health Administration.

LA:cc

Attachments to original minutes:
None